

drop of blood or haemolymph was found oozing out from the wound (Fig. 2).

It had been pointed out by Nikitina (1959) and Rehacek (1965) that this type of homoparasitism in ticks might be of some importance in maintaining the pathogen in nature, by transmitting it among themselves, with the bite of the males. Though *O. tholozani* has been known to be the vector of spirochaetes causing relapsing fever in Kashmir (Rao & Kalra, 1949), it is difficult to say that this phenomenon of homoparasitism in this species of ticks has any epidemiological significance. More experimental evidence, however, is needed to make a definite statement in this direction.

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22. A RECORD OF PREDATORY MITE, *BOCHARTIA* SP. (ERYTHRAEIDAE; ACARINA) ON *CLAVIGRALLA GIBBOSA* SPINOLA

Clavigralla gibbosa S., popularly known as Tur-pod Bug, a minor pest of *Cajanus cajan* L. assumed serious status in Madhya Pradesh. In nature, this pest is kept under control by parasites and predators. Lefroy (1909) and Misra (1924) have reported some chalcid egg

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parasites of *Clavigralla gibbosa*. Usman & Puttarudriah (1955) and Bindra (1963) have recorded *Hadronotus fuviventris* C., and *H. antestiae* Dodd. as egg parasites of *C. gibbosa* at Bangalore and Jabalpur respectively. There seems to be no record of predatory mites on *C. gibbosa* so far.

We noted mites, *Bochartia* sp. which are reddish in colour, preying on the nymphs and adults of *C. gibbosa*. These were attached to any part of the body of the host except on legs and antennae.

The adult mite is oval with large number of setae. A shallow furrow separates the propodosoma from hysterosoma. A pair of eyes present. Legs long, slender, with hair-like setae, six-segmented, tarsi with two claws, but no empodium. Four pairs of legs are present in case of adult; first pair small, present near the head, while others are long. The nymph has three pairs of legs.

The chelicerae are unsegmented. Adults are free-living predators. Both nymphs and adults are attached to the body of the bug in all its stages. On an average the adult mite measures 1.411×0.846 mm. *Percentage of predatory mite attack.*

In order to work out the percentage predatism caused by the mite in the field, random samples were taken and percentage of attacked individuals to the total was worked out. Data are summarised below.

Date of sample	Number of individuals in a sample	Number attacked by mite	Percentage
20-ii-65	34	7	20.58
22-ii-65	68	3	4.41
24-ii-65	15	1	6.66
11-iii-65	20	2	10.00

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